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SUBJECT: CROATIAN MFA TRAINING DIPLOMATS FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

¶1. (U) The Croatian MFA announced November 28 that one diplomat from Afghanistan and two from Iraq have begun a one-year course on economic diplomacy at the MFA's Academy of Diplomatic Sciences in Zagreb. Zeljko Vukosav, Head of the Diplomatic Training and Publishing Department at the Diplomatic Academy, told the Embassy that the three were part of a group of foreign diplomats (including four students from China, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania) attending this training along with 13 Croatian colleagues. He noted that FM Grabar-Kitarovic personally extended the invitations to the Foreign Ministries of Afghanistan and Iraq, and the GOC is covering all costs of their stay.

¶2. (U) COMMENT: This commendable diplomatic training initiative, a significant contribution for a small country, complements other GOC efforts to help in Iraq (Croatian police trainers worked successfully in Jordan at the police training center there) and Afghanistan (where Croatia has provided 150 soldiers to ISAF). END COMMENT

BRADTKE